

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 057735
ORIGIN NODS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 057735

NODIS
CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 3

TAGS: UR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY-DOBRYNIN CONVERSATION MARCH 6

1. DOBRYNIN CAME IN AT HIS REQUEST AND THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE COVERED.
2. SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES

DOBRYNIN DELIVERED AN ORAL NOTE FROM BREZHNEV TO THE PRESIDENT CITING NEW SOVIET DATA THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS CONTINUING TO WORK TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND PREPARE TEST EXPLOSIONS. IT ASSERTS ONE TEST SITE IS BEING COMPLETED AND ANOTHER STARTED; THAT AN INDUSTRIAL REACTOR IS BEING BUILT TO PRODUCE WEAPONS-GRADE PLUTONIUM, AND A FACILITY IS BEING PLANNED FOR PRODUCTION OF ENRICHED URANIUM.

3. UNSSOD

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A SECOND ORAL NOTE CONVEYED SOVIET AGREEMENT TO ENGAGE IN CONSULTATIONS ON UNSSOD, OFFERING TO MEET IN NEW YORK EITHER IN THE COURSE OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING, APRIL 4-21, OR IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS.

4. CAT

A THIRD ORAL NOTE PROPOSED TO CONTINUE CONSULTATIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SALE AND TRANSFER OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS. IT PROPOSED MEETINGS BE IN MOSCOW AT THE END OF MARCH OR BEGINNING OF APRIL, BUT EXPRESSES WILLINGNESS TO MEET AT ANY OTHER PLACE OF MUTUAL CONVENIENCE. THE NOTE ADDS THAT THERE WILL BE A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP OF THE SOVIET SIDE; IT WILL BE HEADED BY LEV MENDELEVICH, AND HIS ASSISTANT WILL BE P. I. GALKIN.

5. DOBRYNIN RETURN TO MOSCOW

DOBRYNIN INFORMED THE SECRETARY THAT HE WAS BEING RECALLED TO MOSCOW FOR CONSULTATIONS ON THE STATE OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS AND WILL LEAVE ON OR ABOUT MARCH 16.

6. HORN

DOBRYNIN SAID THE SOMALIS HAD APPROACHED THE SOVIET UNION FOR ASSISTANCE IN BRINGING ABOUT A MEDIATION EFFORT, BUT HAD BEEN TOLD NO NEGOTIATIONS WERE POSSIBLE UNTIL THERE HAD BEEN A SOMALI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OGADEN. HE ADDED THAT HE HOPED THE HORN PROBLEM WOULD SOON BE OVER, AND THAT THIS WOULD HELP TO IMPROVE SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. IN HIS SIDE COMMENTS, HE SAID THE SOVIET SIDE WAS BY NO MEANS HAPPY WITH THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN THE HORN, BUT ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT PEOPLE WHO THOUGHT EVERYTHING WAS SECRET

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DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH A MASTER STRATEGIC DESIGN IN MOSCOW TENDED TO UNDERESTIMATE THE DEGREE OF IMPROVISATION INVOLVED. HE ADDED THAT THE U.S. SEEMED TO BE MUCH MORE IDEOLOGICALLY-INCLINED THAN THE SOVIET UNION THESE DAYS.

7. SALT

DOBRYNIN INQUIRED WHETHER WARNKE WAS RETURNING TO GENEVA WITH NEW INSTRUCTIONS, AND WAS TOLD THE MATTER WAS BEING CONSIDERED AT A MEETING TO BE HELD SHORTLY. IN RESPONSE TO A FURTHER QUESTION ABOUT CURRENT NEWSPAPER STORIES ON DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION ON THE SUBJECT OF LINKAGE, THE SECRETARY REAFFIRMED THE PRESIDENT'S INTENTION TO MOVE AHEAD WITHOUT DELAY IN THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS. DOBRYNIN WAS CAUTIONED NOT TO PUT UNDUE EMPHASIS ON NEWSPAPER REPORTS.

VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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